## HGM-144-A

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Wakabayashi et al.

Serial Number:

Unknown

Filed:

Concurrently herewith

Group Art Unit:

Unknown

Examiner:

Unknown

Confirmation No.:

Unknown

Title:

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER MPEP §609

Commissioner For Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, §1.97, §1.98, and MPEP §609, applicant encloses a copy of the reference listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A for consideration by the Examiner. The reference is discussed in paragraph [003] of the specification.

The listed reference is being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that it constitutes statutory prior art or contains matter which anticipates the present invention or which would render the same obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number 21828 Carrier, Blackman & Associates, P.C. 24101 Novi Road, Suite 100 Novi, Michigan 48375 30 March 2004

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Attorney for Applicant
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate ET986049422US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner For Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on 30 March 2004.

Dated: 30 March 2004

JPC/km enclosures

Mathryn Mackenzie

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO	Complete if Known				
	Application Number				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Filing Date				
= <del>-</del>	First Named Inventor	Wakabayashi et al.			
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Art Unit				
(Use as many sheets as necessary)	Examiner Name				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language

Translation is attached. of abstract
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.